

THE DEMOCRAT.

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JAMES E. BATTENFIELD, Editor.

A CONVENTION to frame a new constitution for the state of Missouri met at Jefferson city, on the 5th day of May—yesterday.

The destruction of horses, mules and cows by buffalo gnats in Tennessee has caused a decided advance in the price of horses and mules. It is estimated that \$100,000 worth of stock has been killed by them within a radius of 100 miles from Memphis.

Judge Edward Pierrepont, of New York, has accepted the position of Attorney General and will enter upon the discharge of his duties May 15th. This is said to be a slight improvement on the last occupant of the office.

REPORTS from Missouri show that there will be only one-fourth of a crop of wheat. In Indiana the crop is badly injured. In Michigan it is likewise seriously damaged. In Illinois the prospect is discouraging, many wheat fields being plowed up for corn.

CROPS.—From our news from the different counties, clipped from our exchanges, a pretty fair idea of the crop prospects may be gathered. Upon the whole, indications are good that we will be blessed with an abundant crop all over the state. If our people will be frugal and saving, and live within their income this year, we will not have such hard times next year.

A HEAVY DEMOCRAT.—Governor Tilden, of New York, is not a large man, weighing, we have seen it stated, about 130 pounds; but from the way he is coming down on the Canal ring, they entertain a view of him something like the boy did of the mule. Having weighed a hind leg, he calculated his weight to be about 7,000 pounds.

THE elevation of Archbishop McClosky to the Cardinalate, has called forth some very silly comments. Some are so stupid as to suppose he will forfeit his citizenship by acceptance; others are apprehensive of serious complications of the catholic question in America.

We see nothing in it either to affect the American Cardinal's citizenship, or to arouse any fears on account of the growing tendency toward catholicism. It is merely an ecclesiastical event, without any political bearing or significance, and is in strict keeping with the spirit of our institutions to forbid any favor or interference with the sects.

We are not one of those who are so biased as to suppose liberty is endangered by the catholic faith, and we would not be any ways alarmed if the Pope himself should make our country the seat of Papal authority.

It has come at last to be an exploded idea that northern men cannot live peacefully and undisturbed at the south. There is no locality in that entire section of the country, where men of northern birth and northern education, who choose to do so, may not reside with the utmost safety. It is not the nativity of a man that excites southern antagonism, but his adverse instincts, habits and prejudices. A political gamester or professional spoliator is not wanted; and it is only unfortunate that so many of this class, by whom the southern states have been impoverished and accursed, were freebooters of northern origin.

A TENNESSEE Confederate Regiment held a re-union last week and passed resolutions which are significant of the present political position of the great mass of the ex-Confederate soldiers. One of these resolutions declared that having surrendered in good faith it was their intention to perform their part of the contract faithfully, their chief desire being peace and the maintenance of the law's majesty. They sent greeting to their former enemies inviting them to come and live among them, promising to all law abiding citizens the right hand of fellowship. It was also declared unanimously that "men who now wear masks never appeared unmasked before the enemy in time of war."

COUNTY FINANCES.

We do not pen this article in any spirit of fault finding, nor for the purpose of reproaching any of our officials for any of their acts, since they came into office. But it does seem to us that there are some reforms needed and to these reforms we wish to call attention.

Our indebtedness at the present time is not so great but that it may be absorbed in a few years without any burden to taxpayers; provided, the current expense of running our county does not continue to create new indebtedness as fast or faster than existing indebtedness is discharged. The question of our present indebtedness, which we do not think amounts to more than \$30,000, and the means of meeting existing obligations are not now of so much importance to taxpayers, as a judicious and economical administration. The debt at present is nothing to be frightened at, and can be very easily paid, but if a new debt is piled up larger than the old one we gain nothing.

If it were not for the depreciated value of state money and the fact that it can be used for paying county taxes, our county scrip would to-day be worth 60 to 75c on the dollar. It is this, and the indebtedness which continues to accrue which will prove a burden to tax payers.

The principal point in the administration of our county affairs which needs reform, and which is NEEDING IT MOST, is the manner of conducting business in justices' and examining courts. Here is the most onerous part of the whole business; and here, too, the greatest slowness and want of efficiency in enforcement of the law is felt. There is, it seems to us about three times as much costs attending the conducting of business before these courts as there is any necessity for. There is scarcely ever a case, no matter how trivial, brought before one of these courts, but that the county is put in for from fifty to one hundred dollars costs, and frequently much more than the latter figure. Arrests are made on the most trifling causes, which frequently are not sufficient to make a case; the officer who makes the arrest, brings the accused to town, summonses a guard to escort him, keeps him under guard and boards him at a hotel for a few days, or a week, and finally, if he does not give the guard the slip and escape, he is discharged and the county has to foot a useless expense of some 50 or 100 dollars.

All such costs are an imposition upon the tax payers, and should be stopped. We favor a strict enforcement of every law, and want every crime punished; but where there are not sufficient grounds to make a case, we see no use of the county being put to enormous expense. And when a criminal is arrested and in the hands of an officer, we see no use of him employing a guard at the expense of the county, when he is able to keep him in custody himself. The guard service alone paid in our county is enormous. We call attention of the proper authorities to these matters and hope to see a reform.

DELINQUENT TAXES.

The act passed at the last session of our legislature suspending the sale of land for delinquent taxes applies only to the taxes delinquent for 1873 and 1874. The delinquent taxes of 1872, are not included under the provisions of the act, and are now in the hands of the collector, for collection by sale of lands. The law makes it the duty of the collector to have the list of all delinquent taxes published before sale, so delinquents will have fair warning. We do not know to what extent the delinquents of 1872 reach, but we suppose not any very considerable number.

The rush of immigration to Nebraska, Wyoming, Utah and the Pacific coast this spring via Omaha, is reported as unusually large. Nearly 10,000 emigrants have passed through since March 1st, and 1,000 more are there now awaiting transportation.—Shreveport Times.

Cannot something be done to turn the tide to Arkansas? We certainly have a country equally as attractive, and far less exposed to the dangers and hardships of frontier life. Our climate, our soil, our water, our timber—everything—is just as good here as in Nebraska, Wyoming or Utah. Let our Immigration Bureau wake up.

WHITES AND BLACKS IN ARKANSAS.

One of the gratifying signs of the times in Arkansas—and we claim it as one of the many good results of the present administration by Gov. Garland—is the rapidly increasing degree of mutual good feeling between the white and black population of the state, and the new feeling of contentment, and spirit of industry manifested by the latter.

That there has actually and truly been a better feeling between the two races in Arkansas, since the new regime, and that the colored people have shown more of a spirit of contentment and industry than was ever before known, is too patent to require any proof. This we call a good sign; indeed, an excellent sign; for without friendly relations between the white and colored population of our State, and a spirit of industry and frugality among the latter, we can make but little headway in agricultural pursuits. And upon the successful prosecution of our Agricultural interests, to a great extent depends the prosperity of the people of our State.

We therefore hail with no small degree of satisfaction this new state of feeling; and we commend the good sense of the colored people in the disposition they evince to settle down, abandon politics and go to work to acquire an honest living and gather up some property. In this effort we wish them eminent success, and we hope the white population will encourage them to be frugal, industrious and honest.

Politically, the colored people in Arkansas, have no earthly cause to complain. We seen it stated a few days ago in some paper, that the colored office holders in Arkansas at this time, under the Garland administration, number more than they have under any other administration since reconstruction, not even excepting Powell Clayton's.

The success of the blacks in the various pursuits of private life, cannot be secured by, and will not be the result of, any measures inaugurated by legislation. Here their own good behavior, their own industry and frugality must be brought into use; and we hope they will remember this and act accordingly. The condition of the colored people needs much improvement, and while we are confident the white people will do their part toward bettering their condition, the colored man must remember that the efforts of their white friends will do no good unless they, themselves, do their part. Let the good feeling which has sprung up between the two races, be encouraged, and the better qualities of the colored race will be developed.

"STACK ARMS."

Some of our state exchanges are giving good advice to the natives in advising and exhorting them to stack arms; but they are mistaken as to the date when it will be a violation of the late law on this subject; most of them stating that the law goes into effect to-day. The act making the wearing or carrying of side arms and other deadly weapons was approved Feb. 16th, and was to be in force from and after 90 days after its passage; this would bring it to the 17th day of May; consequently after the 17th day of May any person who shall wear or carry any pistol of any kind, or any dirk, butcher or bowie knife, or a sword in a cane, brass or metal knucks, or razor as a weapon, shall be adjudged guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not less than 25 nor more than 100 dollars.

The penalty for officers, including sheriffs, coroners, constables and justices of the peace or any police officers of any city, refusing or neglecting to arrest and bring to trial offenders, is not less than 25 nor more than 300 dollars and removal from office.

The law is a good one and will have a wholesome effect. We say let it be rigidly enforced, and we will have fewer murders, and a better state of society. There is no necessity in the world for any man to go to swaggering about with a great load of murderous weapons buckled around him. Let all such gentry meet the penalty of the law.

Every day is a little life, and our whole life is but a day repeated.

WASTING AMMUNITION.

While the magnitude of the issues involved in the next Presidential campaign cannot be overestimated, or the importance of a thorough organization and spirited action too strongly impressed upon the minds of the people, it does seem to us that all the talk and discussion about candidates and platforms for that campaign at this time is a clear waste of ammunition. It is premature and amounts to nothing but speculation which can do no good whatever. It will be more than twelve months until a national democratic convention is held, and we see no good to come from an agitation of the question at this premature day. Democratic papers cannot with propriety commit themselves to a party policy until they know what the policy of their party will be. To discuss the matter now will only draw out expressions from indiscreet sources which may be used to injure the party; for while no expression of any individual now, can be binding upon the party, it will be used by the enemy, and will have its effect. An excitement now stirred up will not last until the contest comes on; the re-action will follow, and just when we need the whole attention of the country, everybody will be disgusted and tired out and no interest will be manifested. What we want now is a season of rest—rest from political turmoil and excitement, and from the harangues of politicians and aspirants for office. Let the people have a chance to survey their home and agricultural affairs, for a twelve month, and recuperate their wasted fortunes preparatory for the campaign of 1876. We see no propriety in an excited political contest to last from now until the fall of '76. There is time enough to give the masses a rest of twelve months and they will then be better prepared to give their attention and means to the success of the party of their choice, which we have no fears whatever, will be the democratic party of the United States.

ON THE FRONTIER.

The disorders and outrages of the Greasers on the Texas frontier still continue, and engage the attention of the public and of the press. The very transparent attempt of the Mexican Minister at Washington to shift the responsibility from his government, by charging that most of the thieves and banditti are ex-Confederate soldiers, does not satisfy the average American mind; and the demand is universal and loud that the administration shall afford protection to our border people. The disgrace of outrageous treatment from Mexican greasers has lasted long enough; but we would not like to see any mistake made in the remedy. If the administration will be as generous in the disposition of troops for the protection of our frontier, as he has been for the suppression of the will of the people in Louisiana and all over the South, the depredations on the Texas border can soon be squashed, without the cost and bluster of a war with Mexico. Indeed we see no sufficient grounds for such a war. We can avenge the outrages upon our border people, upon the guilty parties if the administration will withdraw the troops from the South and increase the military force on the frontier; and then the disgrace of another civil war and the robbing of a neighbor of territory will be avoided. Speaking of this subject the St. Louis Dispatch makes this suggestion, which is not a bad one:

"What the people of Texas need greatly and should have are more Henry rifles and less reliance upon a government that only protects those who are busy with the robbery of States and energetic in the manufacture of delegations pledged to the championship of a third term."

AMERICAN FINANCE.

The New York Times recites that recent researches by one of the oldest banks in the country have disclosed the fact that of its best depositors, chiefly business firms, forty years ago, only six remain at the present day, and that the residue have either failed or died destitute of property. This evidence of the mutability of earthly fortune appears to be borne out from the records in the New York Probate courts, whose histories show that in the settlement of estates about 90 per cent. prove to be bankrupt.—Shreveport Times.

The extravagance and profligacy of the American people has be-

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Benton county has paid four-fifths of her taxes, what county has done better this year? Don't all speak of it.—[Bentonville Advance.]

The peaches in the county are generally killed, but comparatively few of the apples. The prospects are at present favorable for a good apple crop.—[Ib.]

Heavy frosts nearly every night this week.—[Ib.]

KILLED BY A TREE.—We learn from Hon. W. A. Jones, of Montgomery county, that on Monday the 12th inst. Mr. Murdock Nicholson, who lived about five miles from Caddo Gap, was killed by a limb from a tree that he had cut down. It is supposed that he cut the tree down, which in falling struck another tree, and a limb breaking off fell upon him, breaking his neck and collar bone, and it is supposed, killing him instantly. He was not found until the next day, about twenty-four hours after the accident happened. He was a sober and industrious man, and was working to get money for his family to run a farm. He leaves a wife and several children in very destitute circumstances.—[Southern Standard.]

The wheat continues remarkably promising. If no disaster happens to it, in a few weeks cake will be plenty and cheap.—[Ib.]

Vast beds of ore of a soft malleable character, resembling nickel has been discovered in Scott county. The blacksmiths of that vicinity have been making horse shoe nails out of it, but do not know what it is.—[Dardanelle Independent.]

A heavy frost last night, if there was any damage done to the vegetables and fruit crops, we have not heard to what extent.—[Camden Beacon.]

We had a little frost during the week, but we have not heard of any great damage done.—[Van Buren Press.]

We are glad to note, so far, no damage to fruit. On the contrary, there is every indication of an abundant crop.—[Ib.]

Corn and corn-meal bring \$1.25 per bushel, and not plenty at that.—[Ib.]

In a little ramble we took in the country, we found the wheat and oats looking splendidly, and almost every farmer had the foresight to sow such grain. That is just right: let them make every thing at home needed for consumption.—[Star of Hope.]

Thursday night let down quite a heavy frost, to the partial injury of several kinds of garden truck. The continued cool weather somewhat retards the planting of cotton, but it is hoped it will all be for the best.—[Ib.]

Our town government is now in a better condition financially than it has been for many years, being free from debt. When the collector turns over the revenue due the town, and our street taxes are gathered, some work can be done on the streets.—[Des Arc Citizen.]

We have received the DEMOCRAT published at Russellville by J. E. Battenfield. It is a 32 column paper, democratic in principle, ably edited and devoted to the interest of Pope county. It merits a liberal support. We gladly place it on our list of exchanges.—[Boone County Record.]

The last week has been rather cool, but we learn, that it is the very thing for wheat, as it will prevent rust. The wheat crop of this county is a considerable item this season, as many people are depending on it for their summer's bread.—[Monticellonian.]

We were pained to learn, a few days ago, of a difficulty between Mr. S. B. Jones and Mr. Jas. Parish, which resulted in the shooting of the former. The affray grew out of a neighborhood scandal, and whether the shooting was justifiable or not we have yet to learn. Mr. Jones was shot with a double-barrelled gun, which we learn was loaded with turkey shot, and hit in the shoulder and breast. We are pleased to learn, however, that the wound is not dangerous, and the young man will very probably be up in a short time.—[Ib.]

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